

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 02764 160656Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 /066 W
-----048296 160702Z /21

R 160540Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9157
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PARM, ASEC, TU
SUBJECT: PROTEST AGAINST NEUTRON BOMB

1. AUGUST 13 SMALL GROUP OF ABOUT 30 YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR
EARLY TWENTIES PROTESTED U.S. DEVELOPMENT OF NEUTRON BOMB.
PROTESTORS ARRIVED AROUND 1300, THEY CHANGED SLOGANS ("DOWN
WITH AMERICAN IMPERIALISM"), ONE OF THEM DELIVERED BRIEF
REMARKS, AND THEY LEFT CARDBOARD FUNERAL WREATH AT FRONT GATE.
WHEN POLICE GUARD STATIONED AT CONSULATE GENERAL APPROACHED
GROUP, THEY DISPERSED PEACEFULLY. PROTESTERS WERE IN FRONT OF
BUILDING 5-10 MINUTES. WE UNDERSTAND AMERICAN FLAG WAS ALSO
BURNED SAME DAY AT BUSY INTERSECTION A FEW BLOCKS FROM CONSULATE
GENERAL. ALTHOUGH OBSERVER OF FLAG INCIDENT GAVE ONLY FRAGMENTARY
DETAILS, WE SUSPECT NEUTRON BOMB WAS ALSO OBJECT OF THAT PROTEST,
AND IT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN DONE BY SAME GROUP THAT LEFT WREATH
HERE.

2. "PEACE COMMITTEE", ORGANIZED IN ISTANBUL EARLIER THIS
YEAR, WHICH HAS BROUGHT TOGETHER NUMBER OF LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS,
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APPEARS TO BE LEADING LOCAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST NEUTRON BOMB.
THIS GROUP CLAIMS IT SENT DELEGATION TO "WORLD ASSEMBLY OF BUILDERS
OF PEACE" HELD IN WARSAW, MAY 1977. MOST IMPORTANT AMONG
"PEACE COMMITTEE" SPONSORS IS LEFTIST DISK LABOR CONFEDERATION
(TURKEY'S SECOND LARGEST LABOR CONFEDERATION, APPROX. 225,000
MEMBERS). SAME DAY AS PROTEST AT CONSULTE GENERAL, DISK-OWNED
NEWSPAPER, POLITIKA, CARRIED FRONT AND INSIDE PAGE ARTICLES ON ANTI-

NEUTRON BOMB THEME. SO FAR WE HAVE FOUND NO PRESS ATTENTION GIVEN
FLAG
BURNING OR PROTEST AT OUR BUILDING

3. COMMENT: LOW LEVEL REACTION ON ISSUE BY LEFTIST INTELLECTUALS
COULD CONTINUE. PROMINENT COLUMNIST, ALI SIRMEN, PEACE COMMITTEE
MEMBER, WHO WRITES FOR LEFTIST CUMHURIYET, EXPRESSED
STRONG FEELINGS ON SUBJECT TO CONGEN OFFICERS. HE HAS DONE ON
RATHER EMOTIONAL COLUMN ON NEUTRON BOMB, AND APPARENTLY PLANS
TO DO AOTHER. GROUPS IN ISTANBUL WHICH WORK UP ENTHUSIASM FOR SUCH
INTERNATIONAL LEFTIST CAUSES, HOWEVER, ARE SMALL, HAVE LIMITED
INFLUENCE, AND THEIR ATTENTION SPAN IS GENERALLY SHORT. COUNTRY'S
INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS ARE MUCH TOO COMPELLING FOR BROADER
PROTES ON PERIPHERAL (FOR TURKEY) ISSUE SUCH AS NEUTRON BOMB TO
GAIN MOMENTUM.
HOUGHTON

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Message Attributes

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